

THE BELL RINGER

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EXPRESSION AND ITS REWARDS

Joe Montgomery

Deep in the heart of Belle Meade an observer can walk around Cheekwood's Botanical Hall and find a good deal of the wall space decorated by the work of Montgomery Bell Academy students from the eighth to twelfth grades.

In the regional competition of the National Scholastic Arts Competition, MBA received three of the five best of show or Hallmark Nomi-

nee awards for pieces by Chris Jackson in charcoal, Kenshin Ichikawa in painting, and Joe Montgomery in painting. Of the sixty-three gold awards given out, MBA students received over half of them. Gold award standouts included Mark Pettus in graphics design, Michael Griffin in drawing, Andrew Rosario in drawing, and Neeley Andrews in ceramics. These gold medals and Hallmarks will travel to New York at the end of the month to compete nationally against works from other states. Some of the impressive pieces of art from the competition displayed at Cheekwood include John Hearn's weighty sculpture of a mountain climber fashioned out of seven types of wood, granite, and copper; K.J. Schumacher's large, moody, Jimi Dine-like charcoal still life; and Neeley Andrew's brilliantly colored, expressive ceramic family.

Although MBA's art students and teachers are grateful for their recognition as creators of some of the strongest work in Middle Tennessee, the recognition of MBA as a fine arts school is even more important - according to Mr. Womack. Only re-

cently has MBA's traditionally conservative facade been replaced by a more diverse and colorful appearance. The continuous achievement by the art program helps to erase an old stereotype of MBA as being only a prep school and classical educator. One only needs to look at the depth of the work rejected from the Cheekwood show to see how well the fine arts at Montgomery Bell Academy have flowered. For example, an MBA student's work that received one of the lesser merit awards also received an offer for purchase by the coordinator of the show.

Mr. Womack is convinced that the art MBA students create is the best and that it is impossible for the distribution of these gold, silver, and merit awards to reflect the total intrinsic quality of the work. He believes that it does not need to be judged to gain its worth and that MBA art students set their sights higher than the expectations of a competition, delighting in their ability and achievement rather than in the reception of this ability and achievement.

If one goes to Cheekwood one can see that no other area school

is as dedicated to the production of art as MBA. Mr. Womack views the production of art, not the winning of awards, as "the heart of the art program at MBA." The school's serious interest in supporting the arts is shown by the arts budget, the inclusion of arts in the curriculum, and the drive of interested students. The obvious result is visible on the walls of the Botanical Hall at Cheekwood and in the personal portfolio of each student.



Joe Montgomery's Gold Medal Sculpture



Chris Jackson's Gold Medal Charcoal

MBA PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Lee Hampton

On January 18, a revised version of the MBA Strategic Plan was submitted to the Board of Trustees. The Strategic Planning Steering Committee used suggestions from teachers, families of current students, alumni, the Board of Trustees, and other interested groups to revise the November 1st draft sent in the fall mass mailing. The revised plan features some new recommendations and changes in the importance of some of the elements of the November 1st plan. The plan now includes a new overall "mission statement" which stresses

MBA's role as a college preparatory school and its ideal of students who are wise and ethical "Gentlemen, Scholars, Athletes."

The revised plan also contains new recommendations involving alumni, college planning services, school publications, and the Junior School. Under the current plan, the school will identify and enlist alumni who can help promote MBA to college admissions boards and publish a directory of alumni whom students could contact for advice on selecting and applying to colleges. The school will also "increase opportunities for students and faculty to visit colleges throughout the country" and expand services related to college preparation, selection, admissions, and finances. In addition, MBA plans to "establish standards of excellence for student publications so that they may compete more effectively for national awards" and improve junior school opportuni-

ties in "student publications, stock market competitions, and student leadership." Finally, the Massey Building will expand in size to include a "lecture hall, more classrooms, and a publications area."

Some of the original proposals have been dropped, prioritized relative to the other recommendations, or placed in new categories in the revised version of the plan. Among the proposals mentioned in the original plan which do not appear in the revised version are increased cooperation with Harpeth Hall, a Director of Outreach Opportunities, new national programs such as Model UN, and "clearer and more appropriate guidelines for Activity Period." Also, some of the remaining recommendations have been changed in importance relative to the other recommendations. For example, "instill[ing] virtues" has become Goal #1 in relation to students instead of Goal #6. Some items which origi-

nally were goals, such as evaluating MBA's grading scale, have been made "action steps" under broad goals such as strengthening MBA's college counseling and "increasing awareness of MBA's excellence among colleges across the country."

A key proposal in both versions of the plan is the construction of a new science building on the Montgomery Bell Avenue side of MBA. According to Mr. Gioia, the Science Building will house all of MBA's science classrooms and laboratory space, which will be furnished with new equipment and computers. The type of computers has not been determined and will be decided by the Science Department and Technology Committee. The new building will probably also contain a campus commons area similar to student centers on college campuses, where students may lounge, study, socialize, and relax.

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DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS ADDRESS MBA STUDENTS

Arun Anandaiah

The 1995-96 school year has brought an unusually large and diverse group of speakers to MBA's weekly Monday morning assemblies, in accordance with the initiative set forth in MBA's Strategic Plan. Over the past two months, MBA's faculty and students have heard from Coach Frankie Allen, the head basketball coach of TSU, Admiral J. Wilson Prueher, class of 1960, and World War II veteran Joe Thompson Jr., Wallace School class of 1937. Each of these speakers has brought a unique view with him concerning topics ranging from leadership and virtue to fear and preparation.

Coach Frankie Allen addressed the student body on leadership and preparation, two subjects necessary for success in school as well as on the basketball court. Coach Allen stressed that each student should form a plan for his life in order to succeed. He correlated this statement with his experiences as TSU's coach, emphasizing that extensive practice is essential in order to win games. Despite the disadvantages his team faces against larger, more prominent basketball programs, TSU still has a chance to win due to their intense preparation. In the area of leadership, Allen gave a more personal example, recounting a conversation he had had with his brother prior to his wedding. As he prepared to walk down the aisle into matrimony, his brother said to him, "This is where your leadership ends." However, Coach Allen went on to say, "I believe that there is a place for the man at the head of the household."

The next speaker to address MBA was Admiral J. Wilson Prueher, in a special afternoon assembly. Prueher addressed the student body about the career options open to young students in the Navy and how MBA helped to



"We glorify... the greatest hazard on our earth." - Alumnus Joe Thompson.

By far the most well-received speaker by the MBA students, Thompson spoke of his experiences in W.W.II, including his fears and the need to prepare for combat. His photographs of W.W.II, entitled, "A Front Row Seat, Photographs of D-Day" (concurrently displayed in the main hall of the Davis Building) depict the tragedies and successes of Americans during this turning point in the war. He stated, "I had no idea that anyone would care about these photographs. I took them as my escape from all the things that were happening to me from the Normandy beach landing to, finally, central Germany." He went on to discuss the legend of war, saying, "We glorify conflict and yet it is the greatest hazard on our earth... War is terrible! And yet there are times when this nation must stand up and say, 'This cannot go on'." He then turned his attention to the focus of his speech, the road that one's life follows, and the forks in that road. He stated, "Many, many years later, all of you will look back at the forks in the road in your life. You'll get to see later the dividing of the path and what turn you chose." Thompson also spoke of the fear he possessed before



Admiral Mazack, Headmaster Gioia, Admiral Prueher, Commander Shumaker

prepare him for his career. Following his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, Prueher has been commandant of midshipmen at the academy in Annapolis, Md. from 1989-1991, commander of the 6th Fleet in 1993, and Vice-Chief of Naval Operations in 1995. During his over 30 years of naval service, Prueher has received numerous medals and awards including the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Legion of Merit with four Gold stars.

On January 30, 1996, Prueher was confirmed by the Senate as head of the U.S. Pacific Command. This confirmation was not without controversy which resulted from Prueher's alleged mishandling of a 1989 sexual harassment case and his subsequent comments. Prueher voiced regrets for his handling of the situation during a hearing by the Senate Armed Services Committee, stating, "I have a different outlook than I had in 1989. This particular incident made me realize the nature and consequences of sexual harassment. I [now] understand these issues better."

On the morning of January 28, World War II veteran Joe Thompson Jr. addressed the student body. Following his graduation from the Wallace School in 1937, Thompson attended Vanderbilt, went on to flight school, and landed in the middle of W.W.II shortly thereafter. After the war, Thompson began work for Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., where he has been employed for over 50 years, and has also led an active civic role in Nashville.



"The next ten minutes will change your life." - R.A. Dickey

taking flight in enemy territory. He compared this fear to the fear unprepared students feel when a pop quiz is announced, saying, "And a cold fear reaches into the pit of your stomach. Ever feel like that? Let me tell you that that fear for men and women in combat is immeasurably worse." He further related his

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FUTURE PLANS

(continued from page 1)

The Science Building may also include a large lecture hall with projection equipment. The construction dates for the building have not yet been set because funding for it has not yet been allocated. Mr. Gioia stated that he is hoping some individual or group of individuals will volunteer to fund the building so that the school will be able to avoid mounting a major fund-raising campaign as it did for the Joe C. Davis building. Mr. Gioia also said that construction will not begin until the funding has been secured since he "believes that MBA must maintain a balanced budget."

This latest version of the Strategic Plan is not the final version. Another revision will be submitted to the Board of Trustees on May 2nd, which the Board will be able to edit. Depending on the Board's reaction, the next version may be declared the final version and sent to all of the school's constituencies by the end of May. Even after that version is mailed, however, the plan will continue to evolve as it is put into practice by the various groups and committees which will be involved in implementing it. The Strategic Planning Committee will remain in existence and other, more specialized groups such as the Technology, Library, Science Building, Discipline, and Assembly committees will either be created or continue to deal with various details of the plan.

I thank Mr. Gioia and Mrs. Patrick for their assistance in writing this article.

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A MOCKERY OF A TRIAL

Chris Nalbantyan

MBA's two 1996 Mock Trial Teams were once again successful in producing very realistic and believable cases for both the prosecution and the defense. Both teams were well-prepared and ready for any strategic ploy: Unfortunately, the very scripted, staccato, and memorized style of our greatest competitor, Harpeth Hall, combined with their greater projection, proved too much for MBA's top team. Another unexpected twist in Saturday's Mock Trial City Championships was the fact that MBA's number two team placed higher than the first team—a result of unlucky judging. In fact, MBA 1 was 3 and 1 for the four trials and MBA 2 was 2 and 2. The way these competitions are scored is by parts (openings, closings, witness, etc.) and not by verdict. When MBA 1's prosecution went up against the defenses of Glenclyff High School and St. Cecilia Academy, we clearly had the upper hand. MBA's defense absolutely squashed St. Cecilia's prosecution in the final round. Yet, when our defense went up against Harpeth Hall's prosecution, things weren't so cheery. The judge, a graduate of Harpeth Hall, overruled most of our objections and sustained most of our opponents "complaints." Nevertheless, the expert style of our lawyers and witnesses resulted in a hung jury.

MBA 2's team had to go up against Harpeth Hall on both sides. In the final round, when MBA 2's defense went against Harpeth Hall's prosecution, they were more successful than MBA 1 with respect to objections, despite the bias of the judge. Although Harpeth Hall will now go on to the State Mock Trial competition, which they will surely lose (scripted style is much less preferred in that arena), MBA is able to boast of great individual accomplishment. Marshall Brandt, playing a "short, British detective" (with an amazingly realistic accent), received Most Valuable Defense Witness, and Taylor Ripley, a drug-trafficking thug with an incredible plea bargain, received Most Valuable Prosecution Witness. T. Eddie Sisk, a lawyer with a very powerful and convincing style, distinguished himself as Overall Most Valuable Player. Matt Beasley, of the MBA 2 team, also was awarded most valuable defense witness for that team. None of the other members of these teams should be overlooked however, as all distinguished themselves individually. At the end of the day, our coach, Wade Cowan, reassured us, "Well, that's life. Some judges like Harpeth Hall's scripted style and others like our more flexible and realistic style. We did the best we could."

Looking into the future, we can see a very powerful team for next year; we will keep our heads held high and return next year stronger than ever.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

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experiences to those of students at MBA. While he admitted that some will have a smooth path down life's road, "Others will endure many tests, by just your circumstance, by your poor choices, by your not paying attention to what is truly important." Thompson concluded his speech by saying, "I urge you to watch for the forks in the road. Your years at MBA are precious. You could not find a better flying school. I urge you not to miss a single training flight."

As the 1995-96 school year comes to an end, more distinguished and influential speakers are scheduled to address the assembly. Most notably, Dr. Henry Foster, the head of the ObGyn program at Meharry Medical College and an ex-Surgeon General nominee, spoke on February 26. With this multifarious group of speakers, MBA is accomplishing its initiative to educate the student body through the assemblies.

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OPINIONS

ELECTIONS '96

Chris Allen

It's finally 1996, and we now have a chance to get rid of Bill Clinton and to try to get our country back on course. Having given new meaning to terms such as "liar," "cheater," "lack of ethics," and "two-faced," Bill Clinton has single-handedly (well, in all fairness, the Democrats in Congress and the mainstream press were willing accomplices) ensured himself a spot among history's worst presidents. With little in the "plus" column and several sheets of minuses to his credit, Mr. Clinton has certainly overstayed his welcome. The problem is that if the Republicans don't get their act together, we're going to have to suffer through another four years of this administration, and I really don't think the country could survive another term of Clinton.

Some might ask, "If he's really that bad, how could he have the slightest chance of being reelected?" That's a good question. Anyone who watched the State of the Union Address undoubtedly noticed that again Clinton changed his views. Aside from showing that he has no convictions, this tactic shows that he is a shrewd politician. His administration spent several months figuring out what the American people support (they support just about every Republican stance, which I'll describe later), and then they had Clinton get up and say that he supports everything that the Republicans support. Of course, he has not the slightest intention of following through on what he said, but he's never let ethics bother him before, so why should he now? If one looks over the list of promises he made during the '92 election, it's interesting to see that he hasn't spent too much time trying to fulfill them - they were just a convenient way to get elected. As long as the voting public remembers that regardless of what Clinton says, he'll do whatever the party tells him to do, then we stand a good chance of getting him out of Washington and back to Arkansas (or to the federal penitentiary, depending on what happens with the various scandals he's currently involved in).

So, if Clinton isn't elected, who will be? That's the big question that everyone, especially the G.O.P., wants answered. Of the dozen-or-so Republican candidates that started, only four still have any chance at all of winning the nomination: Alexander, Buchanan, Dole, and possibly Forbes. Of these few, Buchanan currently seems to have a small lead. There are also other Democrats running against Clinton (but Clinton will be the nominee unless some-

thing extraordinary happens), as well as people from the Libertarian, Natural Law, Green, and Reform Parties.

So what do the Republicans stand for? All Republicans (and intelligent people in general) support the downsizing of the federal government, the balancing of the budget, a fair tax system (as opposed to the unbelievably unfair graduated tax system we have now), a tougher stance on crime, the dismantling of the welfare system (to make people actually work for a living), the clamping down on illegal immigration, the ending of discrimination (in the form of quotas and the like), and the strengthening of the U.S. defenses. There are, however, a few issues where Republicans disagree.

Bob Dole is the seventy-four-year-old Senate Majority Leader from Kansas. He is a WWII veteran who was injured in combat and nearly died. He is truly the "patriarch" of the Republican party, and many feel that he deserves the presidency because of his years of dedication to the country. On the political spectrum, Dole is well to the right. He opposes government-funded abortion and gun control. His biggest Achilles' heel is his age, which worries many. He is, as opposed to Bill Clinton, the "quintessential American."

Steve Forbes is the son of Malcolm Forbes of *Forbes* magazine. He inherited a fortune from his father and is now running for President, funding his campaign largely on his own. His chief selling point is the flat tax, under which all Americans would pay the same percentage of their salary, tax forms would be about one page long, and the IRS could be abolished. While he has been accused of being self-serving, it is obvious to any person that a flat tax is the only fair and just system of taxation and, indeed, most Republican candidates support a flat tax (for anyone interested, the tax would probably be somewhere between 15%-20%, applied only to income earned over a certain amount, like \$20,000 or so). After an initial surge, Forbes seems to be fading into the sunset.

Lamar Alexander, the former governor of Tennessee, is probably the most moderate of the main candidates and, therefore, he represents the interests of the vast majority of Americans. He is becoming increasingly well-known, although he is still best known as "the flannel-shirt guy." He came in a close third in the New Hampshire primaries, but he's having trouble gaining on the frontrunners. I think that he will be dropping out soon.

Pat Buchanan is a long-time political figure who is the furthest to the right of all candidates. To figure out what he believes in, just take everything Dole believes and double it. While many people agree with his ideas, most people don't like the way he delivers them. In my opinion, he wouldn't have the slightest chance of beating Clinton, but he would certainly make for an interesting president.

So what do I think? Personally, I think the best thing Republicans could do would be to run Alexander for President, but I think Dole or Buchanan will be the candidate. Although Americans voted Republican last Fall, the majority of Americans are not as conservative as Dole or Buchanan. Most people, myself included, don't think that assault weapons are really what the Second Amendment has in mind and, regarding abortion, although most people (again, myself included) don't really like it (no one's "pro-abortion"), it's really no one's decision but the woman's (or couple's). Besides, the wackos who have been out killing doctors have effectively stopped abortion (murder to stop "murder"—how interesting). In the end, I just hope that we can get Clinton out of office. He has, in just four years' time, made a terrible mess of this country, and only swift, Republican action can turn things around. So those of you who are eighteen (or will be in November), please get out there and vote for whoever wins the primaries.

MICHAEL Renee'

PRESENTS



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VIRTUAL AMUSEMENT

Evan Chen

Computers are entrenched in many different environments in society. Fast-food workers use computers to process orders, Nobel Prize professors rely on computers to perform research, and movie producers use computers to produce screen effects. In fact, the time when there is a computer on every desk in every home is fast approaching. But with every new invention, there are problems. With television, there were violence, couch potatoes, and a loss of "family values"; with the microwave, there was harmful radiation; with the automobile, there were air pollution and drunk driving. To solve each problem, it can be argued that the best solution is to take away the product. For example, if there were no cars, then there would be no drunk driving. Anyone can point out that a computer is not a car or a microwave, but several concerns still apply.

Computer games have become more complex since PacMan and Pong first appeared. With CD-ROM technology and fast processors, anyone can play games that seem real and offer tons of choices, not to mention that they cause much anxiety, take up a lot of time, and, in general, are a distraction, right? Not necessarily. Computer games are vital to the education of kids in computer literacy.

Speaking from experience and general observations, a five-year-old will not be attracted to the computer unless something catches his attention. A five-year-old told to sit down and start memorizing the keyboard will think of computers as a chore. If offered the choice to play a game, however, he will quickly learn the rudiments of the mouse, the controls/keys used for the game, etc. To be able to play that game without having someone else load it up for him, he will want to know how to execute programs and how to maneuver in the operating system. His knowledge of computers will increase exponentially, until one day he can operate a computer by himself.

Inevitably, that kid will start cruising the Internet, where a host of choices will confront him. One hotly debated subject is pornography on the Internet. Naturally, there are ways to stop it, such as constant supervision, locking out those areas on the net (as CompuServe recently did), or simply depriving him of access to a modem. That action would produce negative impacts, since constant supervision implies a lack of trust, and to deprive him of access to certain areas and to a modem would simply limit his experience in different computer areas. What's more, that which is forbidden will tempt him even more, so that

eventually when he gains access to those areas, it will be without a guiding hand present. Believe it or not, pornography will always be there. For example, on a recently developed educational program that allows people to see and speak with each other via the Internet, there were incidents of obscenity and pornography, even when everyone involved with the program was an educator.

How can kids be allowed access to the Internet without worry about pornography? Self-education is one possibility, in which the kids themselves resist even trying to access the pornography. Kids today have to deal with many problems in life, compared to which pornography seems insignificant. Another way is to teach sex-education and include some information about the Internet in the course. The person must have some sort of desire to want to see pornography in order to access it. While the computer would be a tool for him to access pornography, it is not the only means of access. If the person wanted to see the pictures, he could trek down to a store and buy it, albeit illegally, or he could have someone else buy it for him. Besides, it's not difficult to see whether or not a person took pornography off the Internet. When using online services (e.g. America Online,

Prodigy, CompuServe), there are always records of what a person takes off the Internet, and on all computers, any files, when deleted, can be undeleted, unless a person knows how to wipe information off the computer. In that case, his skill exceeds that of a beginning computer user and he probably does his dirty deeds at home as well. To try to stop people like him is futile, and others are unfairly punished for his sake. This doesn't mean that someone has to check the records or the deletions every second, since distrust is implied. All that is required is a warning that all files taken from the Internet will be recorded and that a copy of those files will be kept. Rather than risk getting caught, kids will simply avoid getting in trouble. Wouldn't it be rather obvious in a computer lab if one kid has a picture of naked women on his screen?

To solve a problem by simply denying use of it is not practical. There will always be some minority of people who insist on corrupting a good thing. But by making certain assumptions on the integrity of people, students will have a lot to gain from the resources on the Internet. They will be gaining experience and knowledge that gives them an edge in a world in which computers play a major role.

CUTTING EDGE THEATER

Tyson Tune

On a street that looks more like an alley, off 21st avenue in the Hillsboro Village, cold air blows over the sidewalks in front of Belcourt, the closest thing Nashville has to an Avant-Garde theater.

No, you won't find much in the way of *Film Noire* here, or even movies by obscure film makers, like Warhol's *BAD* or strange Fellini films starring Jim Morrison. What you will find at Belcourt are movies that other theaters refuse to show, with the possible exception of Vanderbilt's Saratt Student Center Cinema, which plays movies on short runs and has a smaller screen, not to mention only one movie at a time.

Playing at Belcourt this last week in January are both *Il Postino* (the *Postman*) and the much hyped *Othello*, with veteran actor Laurence Fishburne as the Moor himself.

Other films in the past few months to grace the silver at Belcourt that you won't find many other places are: *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (with Jack Nicholson), *Les Misérables*, *Doctor Zhivago*, *Raising Arizona*; *Four Rooms* (with Tim Roth



A haven for alternative films, the Belcourt is a Hillsboro Village landmark.

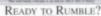
and Madonna and Quentin Tarentino), *Smoke*, and *Blue in the Face* (starring Harvey Keitel).

Two events slated for sometime in the next month are the return of *Leaving Las Vegas*, starring Nicho-

las Cage (of David Lynch movie fame) and described as a reality *Pretty Woman*; and also *Braveheart*, sporting a long-haired Mel Gibson as the leader of an army of Scotsmen.

Possibly one of the most controversial movies to show at former Hillsboro student Harmony Green, *KIDS* follows a group of drug-using, sexually-experimental, and depraved teenagers in the Washington Park area. The film mainly deals with irresponsibility as it applies to the spreading of AIDS in current adolescent society. (Many of the film's characters are based on people still in the Nashville school system). Because of its blatant underage sex (all acting), and its blatant use of beer and marijuana (apple juice and grass clippings, according to Harmony), *KIDS* was slapped with an NC-17 rating, effectively banning it from larger theaters and many video stores. Belcourt, however, ran the movie for several weeks. I saw the film twice and wasn't especially impressed, but the theater

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BASKETBALL WRAPS UP SEASON

Brent Osborn

After starting off the season quickly with three straight victories over Stratford, La Vergne, and Hillsboro, the Big Red basketball team had high hopes for the ongoing 1995-1996 basketball season. The team was paced by the solid play of Junior point guard Michael Godwin who was averaging 29 points per game after the fast start. Sophomore post man Whit Smith seemed to break from his protective shell and emerge as one of the area's top post men even before Christmas break. Coach Mike Morrissey said with respect to the season, "To improve this year we need to become more mentally tough. If we concentrate on team aspects and continuity, we should have some momentum heading into post-season tournaments." The next three games were all against tough opponents as the Big Red stumbled to even their record at 3-3. A quick thrashing of the Hunters Lane Warriors (the District 12-AAA powerhouse) allowed the team to break .500 as we traveled to Cleveland, TN, to play in a round robin. Directly after the trip to Cleveland, the Big Red Hoopsters journeyed to Memphis to compete in the Ross M. Lynn Memorial Tournament. After a first round loss to M.U.S., the Big Red defeated an overmatched team from Webb to continue in the consolation tournament. The team lost in the battle for 5th place and returned to Nashville with a 6-8 record, ready for continued district play.

With a renewed energy after our New Year's Day practice (9:00



Cermak studies the Hillwood Defense

AM), the seniors led the team to Antioch as the Big Red handily defeated the Bears. The team finally got rolling and won the next three games over arch-rival Father Ryan, Overton, and Hillsboro. The defense seemed to prevail as we were holding our opponents to a measly 45 points per game. While we broke for winter exams, Pearl-Cohn was waiting for us to come over and say hello. They welcomed us with a 40-point thrashing as the Big Red was taken by surprise at the beginning of the 2nd half

with a barrage by their guards. The team put together a couple of days of great practice following this defeat and was ready to play against the league-leading Cobras. Although, as a team, MBA played a very solid game, the unbelievable shooting of the Cobras allowed Whites Creek to escape our home court with a victory. Now, with the district tournament looming in the future, the Big Red basketball team was hoping to throw it all together and complete the goal of reaching the Sub-state game. As Coach Mike Morrissey

put it, "This year we have been up and down. At times we looked great and other times it has been a roller coaster ride. The rest of the season really could go either way. Winning or losing is basically left up to the team and what they want to accomplish together." However, Godwin's flu bug and a cold shooting night against Overton in the District tournament ended the Big Red's roll towards the State tournament.



Marler puts on a shooting clinic

FORMER GREEN HORNETS MOVE ON

Will Parsons

On November 21, area church basketball teams began legal practice and the season was officially underway. Although most teams had been participating in rigorous conditioning sessions since the end of last season, the first practice was an opportunity for players to test their skills, which, in most cases, had withered in the off season. Even before teams began practicing, the ever important league meeting was held. Two new teams, Bellevue and First Pres. #2, were admitted into the league. Also high on the agenda was the topic of taunting, a practice which is cherished and refined by all successful players. The coaches vowed to put an end to trash talking but, so far, they have had little or no success.

As the opening game neared, many teams were forced to make crucial personnel decisions. Westminster

jilted key players such as Grant Harrell, Aaron Lara, Carter Paine, and Will Parsons simply because they went to church elsewhere. Thus, Grant and Aaron joined Calvary, and Will and Carter joined Belmont. Both Belmont and Calvary are off to 4-2 starts while Westminster's #2 team, under a curse from the departing players, has yet to win a game and is potentially the worst team in the history of churchball. Their futile efforts are led by Tom "Say it Tom" Sherrard, Stephan "the Muscles from Brussels" Schirmer, and the Beezer. The older and more experienced Westminster squad, led by Jim Alley, Rob Bearden, and Todd Lawrence, is off to a respectable 4-2 start despite numerous technical fouls against Will Alexander for excessive hustle. First Pres. #1 is also having a strong year under the leadership of the volatile Frank Blair, Drew

"Wrong Way" Robers, and the fundamentally sound Brew Davis. Other impressive squads this year included West End, Forrest Hills, and St. Bartholomew's. Woodmont (Chris Jackson, Kyle Siesser, Geff Motes), however, was not impressive.

Most likely, the champion-

ship will come down to a battle between Calvary, Belmont, Forrest Hills, Westminster #1, and First Pres. #1. However, in my opinion, this year will be remembered as the year of the defectors, as Calvary and Belmont end up in the finals, billed as the "battle of the ex-Green Hornets".



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